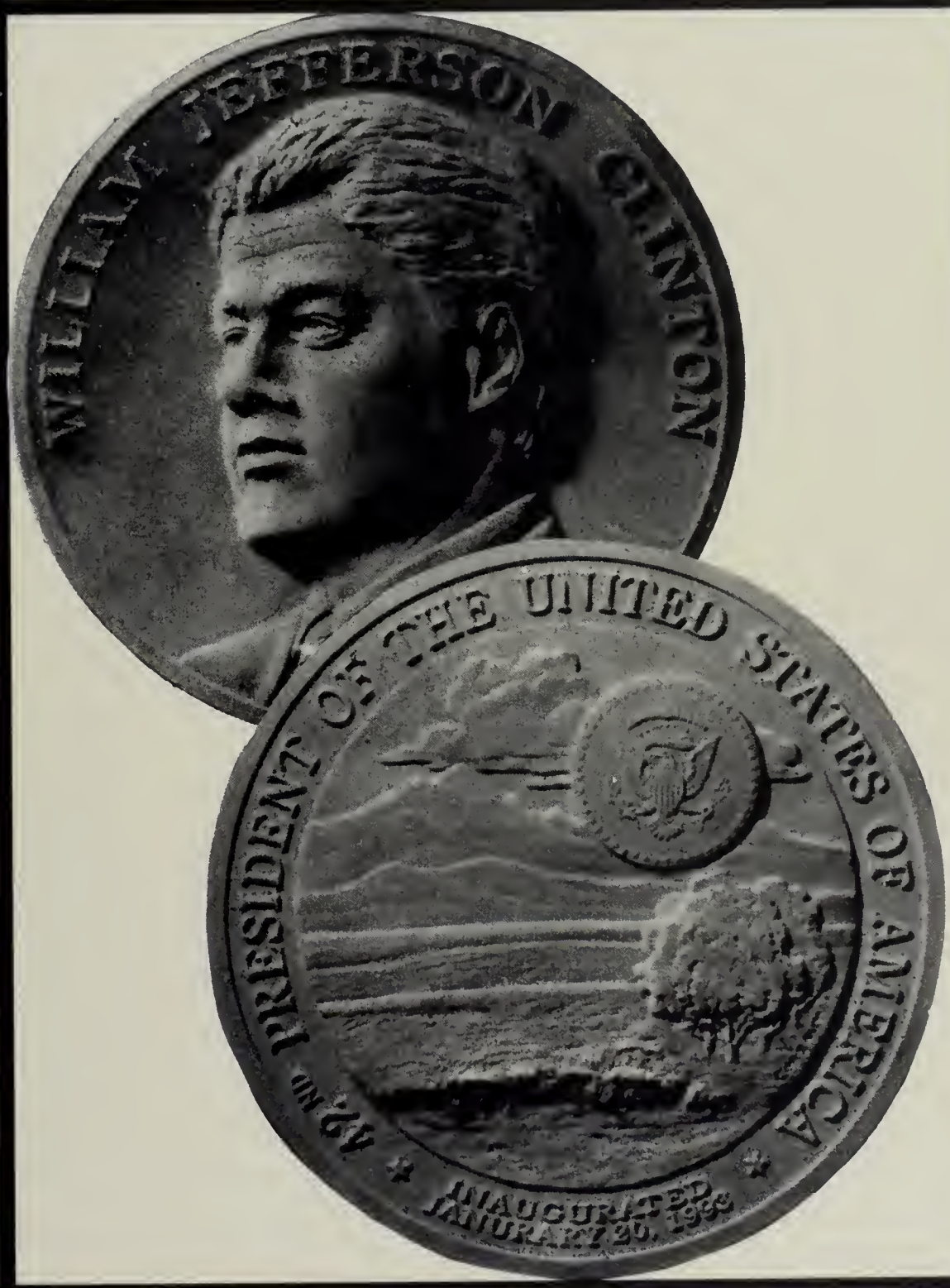
the centinel

Quarterly Journal of the
Central States Numismatic Society



Spring 1993
Volume 41, Number 1

Rosemont, IL Convention May 21-23

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VOL. 41, NO. 1 SPRING 1993

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Articles for *The Centinel* to: ..... The Editors
Advertising inquiries and copy to: ..... The Editors

Presidential Commentary

Leonard M. Owen

As I write this commentary, I want to remind all of you that the dates for the next convention are May 21-23 with PNG day on May 20. This convention will be held at the Rosemont Exposition Center, 9301 West Bryn Mawr Road, Rosemont, Illinois. This location is about as close to the center of our Central States area as any locality that could have been chosen. With this in mind, you might consider this to be a good year to attend your spring convention.

Our Convention Coordinator, Dick Grinolds, has been working closely with Fred Oliver and Kevin Foley and reports that we can look forward to an excellent convention.

I am pleased to see that the collector is now making his presence known by making the rounds of the bourse tables to find the coins he does not have.

It also seems the crowds are larger and more people are buying at the antique, flea market, baseball card, post card, and paper memorabilia shows.

The public appears to believe the recession is over or they at least have a better outlook on the economy. More show promoters have lowered their rates for collectible shows and the dealers do not have to price their material at the top dollar, which could be part of the change in the mood of the public.

For those able to attend the convention, several activities may be of interest to you, the RARCOA Auction, browsing a 350 booth bourse, educational programs, exhibits, general membership meeting, as well as the Saturday night banquet which is always an enjoyable evening.

This also provides an opportunity to meet some of your old friends and make new ones in the numismatic community.

Grover Criswell recently sent me one of his books, "Confederate and Southern States Currency," 4th edition. The Confederate section was of interest to me as I once had an extensive collection of this material.

The sections on Confederate Counterfeits and Indian Territories was very interesting, and to the best of my knowledge the most complete listing that has appeared in print of this material.

I have a copy of the first one of these books with a copyright date of 1957 and a 1961 price list. By checking the prices in the 1961 list and comparing this with todays prices, it becomes quite obvious that I should have kept my Confederate collection and extended it instead of the coins I have had for many years that are still worth the same price as they were in 1964. Isn't hindsight wonderful?

Hopefully the future of coins is brightening.

SEE YOU IN ROSEMONT.

Leonard M. Owen
President

A Message from the Secretary

Robert "Bob" E. Douglas

Today is the day before Ground Hog Day. Will we have more winter or only six weeks 'till Spring? When you read this you will have the answer. We have had more ice and cold than I can remember for a long long time. I talked to past president Marjorie Hendershott today and she has just arrived home (in Florida) from a Caribbean cruise. Boy, does that sound nice right now.

Coin show news here in Iowa this winter has been a little sparse. It seems that there is little excitement, the same as on the national scene. Fred Oliver, this spring's CSNS annual convention chairman, has provided a big boost to my morale. Tables for the Spring Rosemont Convention have been booked at a brisk pace. I know Fred is happy and at last report over 200 tables have been reserved. I can also tell dealers are thinking of the convention as I have reserved. I can also tell dealers are thinking of the convention as i have received many requests for membership numbers and new membership applications. Have you made your reservations for your hotel room at the Hyatt Regency? Don't delay, you may be out of luck if you wait too long. Are your exhibits ready? Have you arranged for the time off from work? When you read this, I hope the answers to all the above are YES. Be sure to reserve time for two auctions this year! The first will be the RARCOA Auction, the Big one! The second, a bullet auction by Heritage Numismatic Auctions. See the convention program for the fine details as to when and where.

Ron Crouch is the convention chairman for the fall 1993 convention in Dayton, Ohio. Ron was the chairman the last time we had a fall convention in Dayton, and he did a fine job and provided a well-run convention! The dates are November 5-7, 1993 and the convention hotel is the Stouffer Hotel. Please plan your schedule accordingly.

As I stated in the last *Centinel*, the Board voted to revise the By-Laws by reducing the CSNS officers to a President, Vice President, and a Secretary/Treasurer. This change is to eliminate the office of Second Vice President to reduce board expense. Please study the proposed change found elsewhere in the *Centinel,* for you will be asked to vote on this motion at the General Membership meeting at the spring convention in Rosemont, IL May 22, 1993.

As always I have a list of CSNS members that have moved and not advised me. Please see if you can help me with a new address for the list of LOST CSNS Members found elsewhere in this *Centinel.*

If you have not done so already, please advise your clubs that the Board of Governors of the CSNS is open to invitations for the 1997 and beyond Spring CSNS conventions, and for 1994 and beyond for the Fall conventions. Any club that wishes to submit a bid may do so by sending to the undersigned, or advise me of your wish to present a bid at the Rosemont Convention so that I may reserve time at the Board meeting for you.

Congratulations to CSNS member Scott Blazek for having his design selected for a U.S. commemorative coin. A real honor!

I was saddened to hear that CSNS member Virginia Hudson passed away. She fought kidney disease for years. Virginia was the wife of former governor Don Hudson. Our condolences Don.

I received a very nice letter from Marvin Mericle of the Fort Wayne Coin Club. The club has utilized funds from the 1991 fall convention, along with Fort Wayne Coin Club funds and with the help of Pollard Coin & Stamp Supply, to purchase several fine numismatic publications for the Fort Wayne high schools and middle schools. What better way to provide information to potential young numismatists! (Also please note in the last issue of the *Centinel* an article on the passing of Wilson Pollard on November 1, 1992).

Please don't forget that our dues have increase to $8.00 (Regular) and $125.00 (Life) effective March 1, 1993.

See you at the spring convention in Rosemont, Illinois, May 21-23.

Robert (Bob) E. Douglas

Phone 319/364-0706, 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Future CSNS Conventions

1993 — May 20-23 ..... Chicago, Illinois
Fred Oliver, 813 E. Bloomingdale #178, Brandon, FL 33511, Phone 813/684-3854

1993 — November 5-7 ..... Dayton, Ohio
Ron Crouch, 1921 Scotch Pine Dr., Dayton OH 45432-1843, Phone 513/426-1332

1994 — April 7-10 ..... Indianapolis, Indiana

1995 — April 27-30 ..... Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1996 — April 10-14 ..... Kansas City, Missouri

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS

Interested in hosting a future CSNS Convention? It is not too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

ATTENTION CLUBS!

At the 1993 Board meeting, to be held in Rosemont, Illinois, in conjunction with the Central States Convention, the Board will entertain club bids to host the 1997 Central States Convention. Any club which desires to submit a bid to host the 1997 Convention should make its intention to do so known to the Secretary, Robert Douglas, 58 Devonwood Ave., SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

Bids and their accompanying presentations will be considered by the Board during its deliberations in Rosemont, IL.

Notice of Proposed Amendment of By-Laws of Central States Numismatic Society

Shall Article III, Section 1, of the By-Laws of the Central States Numismatic Society be amended so as to delete reference to the office of Second Vice President, and, furthermore, shall reference to that position and its duties and incidents be stricken wherever else it may appear at any place in such By-Laws?

The effect of the proposed amendment is to eliminate the office of Second Vice President from the CSNS.

Chicago is Calling You

The May 21-22-23 54th Anniversary Convention of the Central States Numismatic Society in Chicago is just around the corner. As always, the Professional Numismatists Guild will sponsor their own preconvention bourse on Thursday, May 20.

We'll be meeting at the Rosemont O'Hare Exposition Center, 9301 West Bryn Mawr Road in suburban Chicago. The Exposition Center is only one mile from O'Hare Airport. Our convention attendees will be at the convention in less than a half hour from the landing of their plane at O'Hare.

Many of you are already familiar with the Rosemont O'Hare Exposition Center as the site of the 1991 American Numismatic Association Convention. We'll have a full house of numismatic convention activities for you. Rare Coin Company of America will be the official convention auction house and will have a sale to rival any we've seen in the past. Our Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, our headquarters hotel. Hyatts are well known for the superb quality of their catering departments and we expect to have a memorable affair for you all.

Not to be overlooked is our convention luncheon at 11 a.m. on Friday. With all the hustle and bustle of the bourse our Friday luncheon will be an opportunity to get away and spend some relaxing moments with numismatic friends.

A numismatic convention is many things and activities, but the most important element is **you,** our Central States Numismatic Society member. Without you and your participation all the convention activities become insignificant. Make your plans now to attend what we expect will be the finest numismatic convention of the year. It will all be there for you; fine facilities, a world class bourse, an auction by one of America's leading firms, educational programs, meetings and a whole array of numismatic activities. Don't miss any of it! You'll find all the necessary reservation forms in this issue of *The Centinel.*

We'll see you in Chicago!

Fred Oliver and the Convention Committee

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Chicago is Calling You
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54th Anniversary Convention

May 21, 22, 23, 1993
PNG Day — Thursday, May 20

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9301 West Bryn Mawr Road
Chicago, Illinois
One Mile From O'Hare Airport

* 350 Booth Bourse
* Major Auction by RARCOA
* Educational Exhibits
* Programs and Meetings

Convention Hours:		
PNG Day:	Thursday, May 20	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
CSNS:	Friday, May 21	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
CSNS:	Saturday, May 22	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
CSNS:	Sunday, May 23	10 a.m.-3 p.m.

To reserve a room at the Headquarters Hotel Hyatt Regency O'Hare, adjacent to the Convention Center, call (708) 696-1234 and ask for the Central States Numismatic Society $99 convention rate.

To receive a bourse application:

Fred Oliver
813 E. Bloomingdale #178
Brandon, FL 33511
(813) 684-3854

Membership Applications

The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days, unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

6686	Michael D. Wyngarden	St. Joseph, MI
6687	Peter Degraaf	Marine City, MI
6688	Gloria Swiatik	Manhasset, NY
6691	George Rahner	Columbia, MO
6692	Joe Hayes	Phoenix, AZ
6693	Jenny Hayes	Phoenix, AZ
6694	Maureen Fleischman	Beverly Hills, CA
6695	Jay Rudo	Silver Spring, MD
6696	Mike Lightner	Lancaster, PA
6697	Ron Morgan	Dallas, TX
6699	Clif Brakins	Kalispell, MT
6700	Bruce Dubin	Tampa, FL
6701	Michael Sweeney	Tampa, FL
6702	Brad Kutcher	Nahant, MA
6703	Joseph T. Jaffe	Chenango Bridge, NY
6704	Jack R. Lee	Jackson, MS
6705	Tim Kyzivat	LaGrange, IL
6706	Robert H. Jacobs	Chicago, IL
6707	Jonathan E. Jacobs	Chicago, IL
6708	Carol Anthney	Newport Beach, CA
6709	John Finn	Newport Beach, CA
6710	Rebecca Fong	Newport Beach, CA
6711	Henry R. Hilgard	Santa Cruz, CA

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

6689	Michael Blanton	Springfield, MO
6690	Nikki Maines	Bowling Green, IN
6698	Edward Ewing, Jr.	St. Louis, MO

LIFE MEMBERS

537	W. Ray Lockwood	Marion, IN
538	David B. Gere	Honolulu, HI
539	Tom Galway	Madison, WI
540	James Lam	Oakland, CA
612	Ron Horstman	Gerald, MO

CSNS HONOR ROLL

The following members have attained continuous CSNS membership for the number of years shown.

50 YEARS

R022	Carl T. Shelby	Muncie, IN
L006	Hubert L. Polzer	Mequon, WI
L008	James Buchbinder	Milwaukee, WI

45 YEARS

L033 Nedra Gonzales ..... Sarasota, FL

35 YEARS

L077 George D. Hatie ..... Detroit, MI
R0991 John F. Foster ..... St. Peters, MO
R1009 Hank G. Spangenberger ..... W. Carrollton, OH
R1003 Michigan State Numismatic Society ..... Portage, MI
R1006 Western Reserve Numismatic Club ..... Chargin Falls, OH
L380 Milwaukee Numismatic Society ..... Milwaukee, WI
R0832 Ralph C. Winquist, Jr. ..... Rockford, IL

30 YEARS

R1564 Dennis G. Weathers ..... Chicago, IL
R1582 Charles J. Ricard ..... Northbrook, IL
L098 Paul E. Garland ..... Louisville, TN
L095 Richard Peterson ..... Lake Placid, FL

25 YEARS

R2051 Thomas E. Klunzinger ..... Lansing, MI

20 YEARS

L170 Joseph P. Irmen ..... Itasca, IL
L159 Gene R. Boyd ..... Davenport, IA
L189 Robert Wojtas ..... Gilberts, IL

LOST MEMBERS

Can you help the Secretary find them?

George Grable ..... Kansas City, MO
David Jalil ..... St. Louis, MO
Todd Zuben ..... Long Beach, CA
Bobby F. Steverson ..... Panama City, FL
Frank Roza III ..... Carson City, NV
David Sprengelmeyer ..... Dubuque, IA
Wade Hinderling ..... Bayside, NY
Arlene Kigin ..... Washington, D.C.
Brian Hendelson ..... Fresh Meadows, NY

DECEASED MEMBERS

The Board and membership of the Society join in extending our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the following members, who passed away recently.

R6316 Doc Denton ..... Chattanooga, TN
L236 Jim Selfridge ..... Elmont, NY
L094 Jerry Bates ..... Florissant, MO
R2950 Virginia B. Hudson ..... Indianapolis, IN
R6569 Vincent B. Filpi ..... Pittsfield, MA
R0233 Wilson E. Pollard ..... Indianapolis, IN

Gale V. Highsmith Dies at Age 81

Honorary Life Member
Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Funeral services were held for Gale V. Highsmith, whose restless intellect wandered for many years over the fields of archeology, numismatics and astronomy.

Highsmith died January 29, 1993.

"He was very in-depth into whatever he did," said Highsmith's daughter, Darlene Anderson.

A retired engineer for Falf Corp. in Milwaukee, Highsmith devoted his latter years to the study of fluted axes, relics he described in a 1986 interview as "the scarcest of Indian artifacts."

His research culminated with the publication of his book, "The Fluted Ax," in 1985.

The 600-page book "was one of his main accomplishments," Anderson said. "He spent 25 years working on it."

In researching the subject, Highsmith collected more than 360 pieces. He planned to open a museum where he could display them, Anderson said.

Highsmith was past president of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, but his interests went beyond American Indian artifacts.

For most of his life, Highsmith was one of the foremost coin collectors in Wisconsin and the past president of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society.

His interest in coins attracted him to the study of other things that are used as money.

He eventually served as president of the Society of Odd and Curious Media, an international organization that studies odd forms of currency.

Highsmith's collection of primitive currencies included a large collection of American Indian stringed beads and a bird of paradise, whose feathers were used as small change in areas of New Guinea.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, at the height of the race for outer space between the United States and the Soviet Union, Highsmith used mathematical calculations to track satellites for the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

Highsmith also designed commemorative silver and bronze medals for Summerfest during the festival's first three years.

"He was fun to be around. He was always willing to share what he knew," said his daughter, of Milwaukee.

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Preliminary Convention Schedule

Central States Numismatic Society 54th Anniversary Convention

Rosemont, Illinois
Rosemont O'Hare Exposition Center
and the
Hyatt Regency O'Hare

May 21, 22, and 23, 1993
PNG Day — Thursday, May 20, 1993

The following tentative schedule of events for the 54th Anniversary Convention of the Central States Numismatic Society is presented here as a convenience for potential convention attendees. Because of early printing deadlines it is probable that some changes and many additions will be made to the schedule prior to the actual dates of the convention. Please consult the official program, available at the convention itself, for final times, rooms, and details. All events are at the convention center unless otherwise noted.

Bourse: Rosemont O'Hare Exposition Center Exhibit Hall F

THURSDAY, MAY 20 – PNG DAY

8:00 a.m.	Move in for PNG booth holders
10:00 a.m.	Bourse opens to PNG invited guests
5:00 p.m.	Bourse closes
7:00 p.m.	Bourse opens for move-in of CSNS booth holders
9:00 p.m.	Bourse closes

FRIDAY, MAY 21

8:00 a.m.	Bourse opens to CSNS booth holders
10:00 a.m.	Bourse opens to public
7:00 p.m.	Bourse closes

SATURDAY, MAY 22

8:00 a.m.	Bourse opens to CSNS booth holders
10:00 a.m.	Bourse opens to public
6:00 p.m.	Bourse closes

SUNDAY, MAY 23

9:00 a.m.	Bourse opens to CSNS booth holders
10:00 a.m.	Bourse opens to public
3:00p.m.	Bourse closes

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations at the headquarters hotel Hyatt Regency O'Hare, conveniently located across the street from the Convention Center and connected to it via an enclosed skywalk. Call (708) 696-1234 and ask the agent for the special $99 Central States Numismatic Society rate.

SECURITY ROOM: Rosemont O'Hare Exposition Center
Exhibit Hall F
The Security Room will open to receive dealers' packages at 12 noon on Wednesday, May 19, and will operate until 10 a.m. on Monday, May 23. Parcels may be checked in as late as 10 p.m. each evening and removed beginning at 5 a.m. each morning.

AUCTIONS: Official Convention Auction sponsored by RARCOA Lot Viewing:
Wednesday, May 19
10 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Thursday, May 20
8 a.m. – 9 p.m. in the Bourse Room
Friday, May 21
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Bourse Room
Auction Sessions:
Thursday, May 20
6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Friday, May 21
6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare

Heritage Bullet Auction Sale
Lot Viewing:
Thursday, May 20
8 a.m. – 9 p.m. in the Bourse Room
Friday, May 21
8 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the Bourse Room
Auction Session:
Saturday, May 22
Time to be Announced at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare

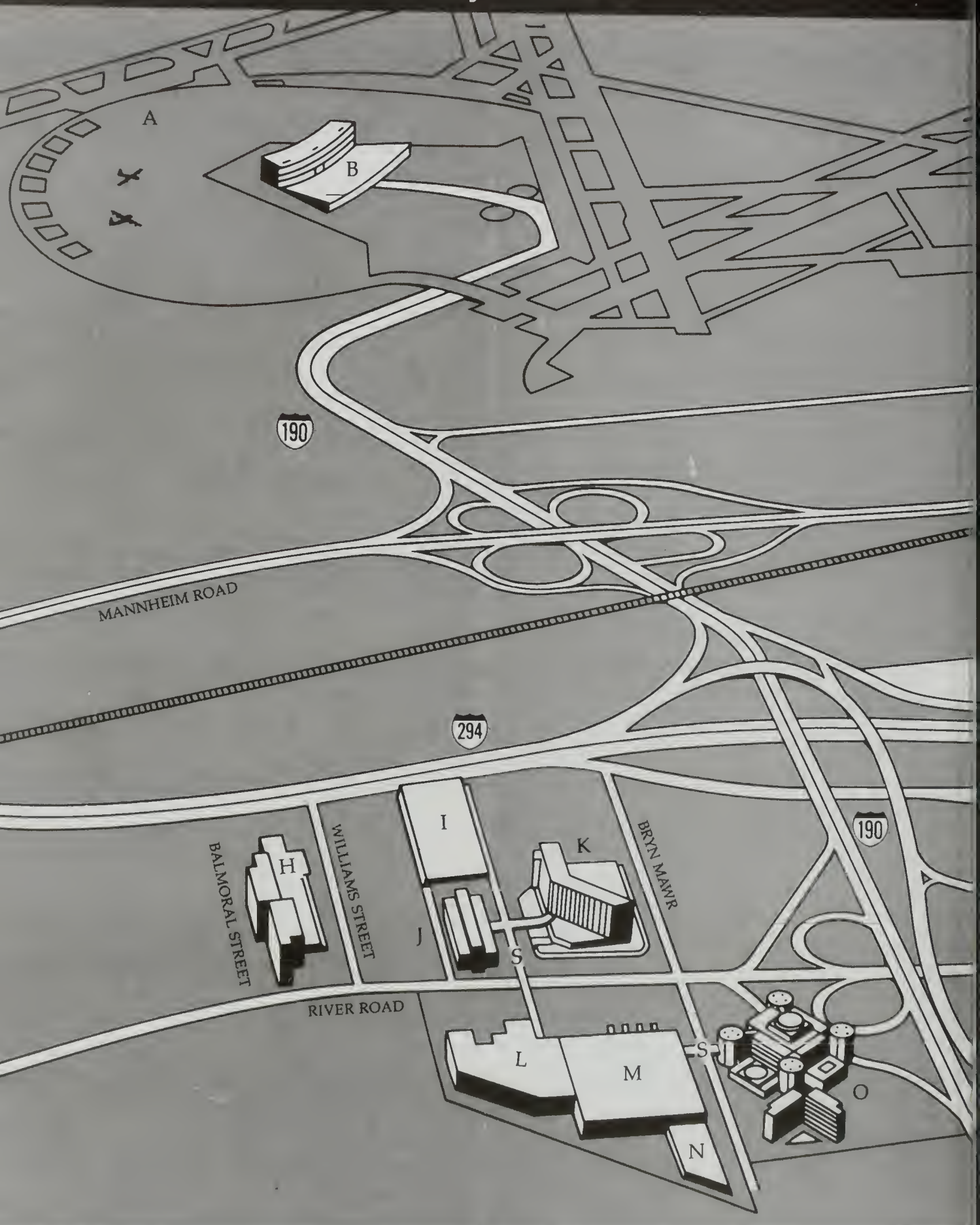
MEETINGS:

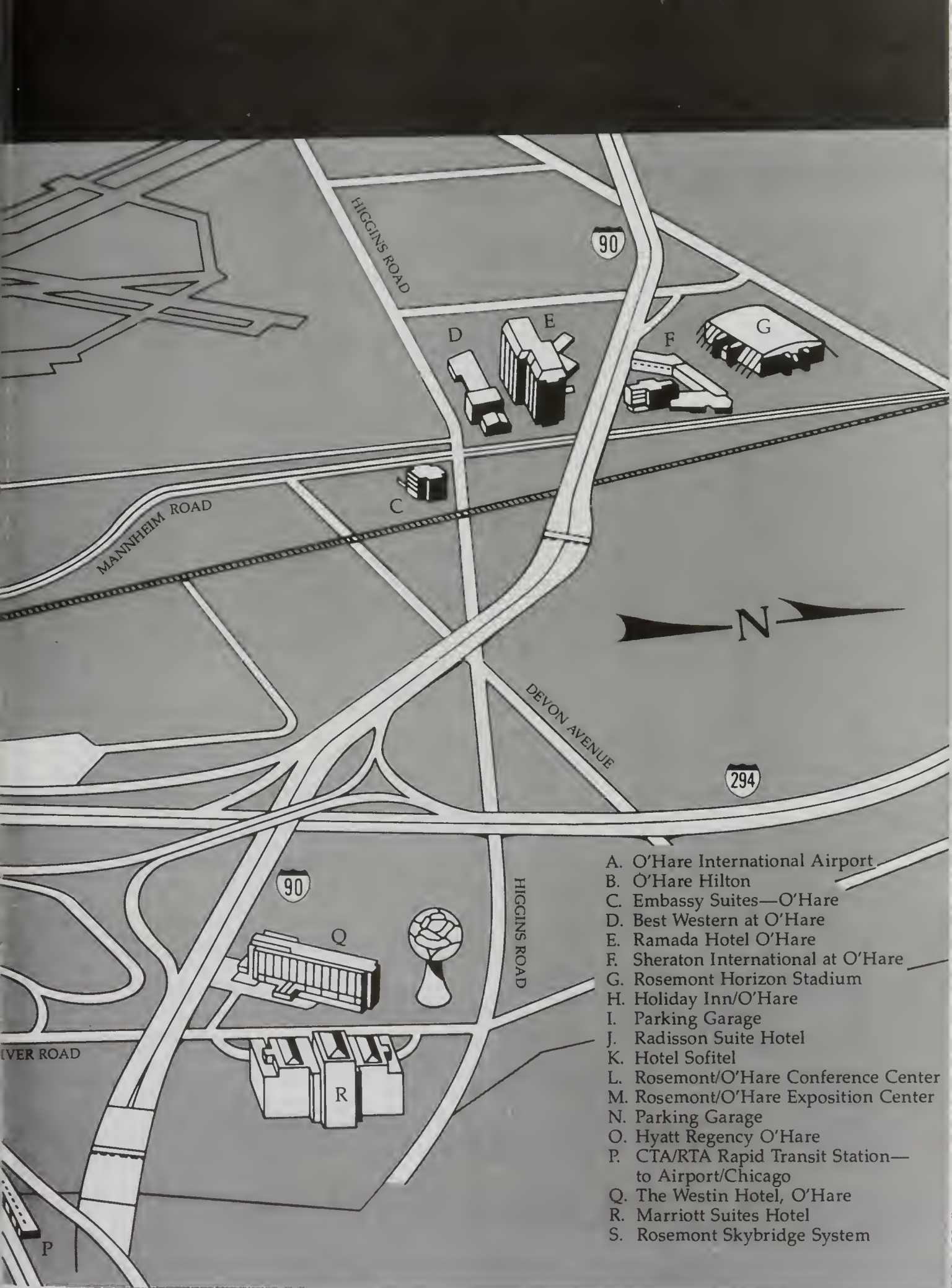
Friday, May 21:	
3 p.m. Hyatt Hotel	Central States Numismatic Society Board meeting
Saturday, May 22:	
8 a.m. Hyatt Hotel	Central States Numismatic Society Board meeting
11 a.m. Hyatt Hotel	Chicago Coin Club
12noon Hyatt Hotel	Young Numismatists
1 p.m. Hyatt Hotel	Educational Forum with Anthony Swiatek
3 p.m. Hyatt Hotel	CSNS General Membership meeting; Presentation of Exhibit Awards
Sunday, May 23:	
8 a.m. Hyatt Hotel	Central States Numismatic Society Board meeting

BANQUETS AND SOCIAL EVENTS:

Convention Luncheon	
Friday, May 21	
11 a.m.	Hotel Sofitel directly across the street from the convention center
Convention Banquet	
Saturday, May 22	
7 p.m. Hyatt Hotel	Pre Banquet Cocktail Hour
8 p.m. Hyatt Hotel	Banquet

Village of Rosemont, Illinois





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B. O'Hare Hilton
C. Embassy Suites—O'Hare
D. Best Western at O'Hare
E. Ramada Hotel O'Hare
F. Sheraton International at O'Hare
G. Rosemont Horizon Stadium
H. Holiday Inn/O'Hare
I. Parking Garage
J. Radisson Suite Hotel
K. Hotel Sofitel
L. Rosemont/O'Hare Conference Center
M. Rosemont/O'Hare Exposition Center
N. Parking Garage
O. Hyatt Regency O'Hare
P. CTA/RTA Rapid Transit Station—to Airport/Chicago
Q. The Westin Hotel, O'Hare
R. Marriott Suites Hotel
S. Rosemont Skybridge System

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Armenia on the Threshold of Independence: Commemorative Coins Reflect Past Heritage, Present Difficulties ©

Leon A. Saryan, Ph.D

Armenia has now entered the post-Soviet age. Like other former Soviet republics, it is gradually extricating itself from pervasive economic, social, and political domination which were facts of Soviet life for seven decades. In late 1991, the USSR dissolved into its constituent republics, bringing in its wake ethnic and economic turmoil, and hopefully greater liberty and independence to its constituent peoples.

These are exciting times; history is being written daily before our eyes as a new Soviet revolution transforms the former union economically and politically. The rapid pace of events forced several revisions in this article before an up-to-date version could be presented.

Armenia is one of the smallest of the new republics in terms of area and population, but has perhaps the oldest heritage and traditions of any. Prehistoric monuments on Armenian territory dating back more than 3000 years testify to a great antiquity.

Armenia is known to be the first nation in history to adopt Christianity as its state religion. The conversion took place nearly 1700 years ago, long before those of Russia and most of continental Europe. Armenians have a unique and distinct alphabet, language, and culture, which, like those of several other former Soviet peoples, are very different from Russian.

The national heritage of Armenia is reflected in a rich series of ancient and medieval coins struck in copper, silver, and gold, which are actively sought by collectors.[1] In the early twentieth century, Armenia enjoyed a brief period of independence during which some paper notes, but no coins were issued. In 1920-1921, Turkey and Red Russia divided up the Armenian lands, and Armenia was forcibly sovietized. Ever since, the country has used the uniform coinage and currency of the USSR.

Until recently, the Armenian theme was neglected in Soviet coinage. However, in the last four years, three new commemoratives, the first and only USSR issues to illustrate important aspects of Armenia's history, culture, and present difficulties, were struck. These coins also reflect the changing attitude of Russia and the center toward the republics during the Gorbachev era, from one of imperialism and Russian chauvinism to a happier system based on recognition of the ethnic diversity and economic interdependence of the various republics. These coins form the basis of this article.

3 Ruble 1989 Earthquake Commemorative

After the tragic genocide of 1915, when over 1.5 million Armenians were killed in a mass slaughter by the government of Turkey, the 1988 earthquake which devastated northern Armenia was the greatest disaster for the Armenian people in this century.

On December 7, 1988, at precisely 11:41 a.m., the northern third of the Armenian Republic was shaken by the first of several strong earth tremors. Measuring 7 on the Richter Scale and 10 on the Soviet Scale, these were the strongest tremblers registered in the region in several decades.[2] The recorded intensities, however, do not adequately convey the human dimension of the disaster. Apartment buildings, schools, and factories

[1] See L.A. Saryan, "Armenia's Stormy Heritage," *The Numismatist*, Vol. 103, No. 2 (February 1990), pp. 224ff. Also see "Ancient and Medieval Armenian Coinage," *Coin News*, Vol. 26, No. 10 (November 1989), pp. 24-28

[2] The 1988 earthquake was fully covered by *Time* and *Newsweek* in issues dated December 19, 1988 and December 26, 1988, as well as numerous other publications.

collapsed by the hundreds, trapping thousands of helpless people inside.

While the exact number of victims may never be known, reliable estimates put the number of dead in two major cities (Leninakan and Kirovakan) and several dozen smaller town and villages (including Spitak and Stepanavan) at 50,000, and the number of those who lost their homes at over 500,000. When compared to the country's population of only 3.5 million, the severity of the effect on the small country can be better appreciated.

At the very moment the earthquake struck, international attention was riveted on the improving relations between the USSR and the United States. Soviet leader Gorbachev was visiting the USA as the guest of President Reagan and President-elect Bush. Gorbachev immediately returned to Moscow and then hurried to Armenia, where he personally surveyed the damage and took charge of relief efforts.

Offers to help Armenia poured in from around the world. Funds and assistance were provided from many republics within the USSR. Europe sent immediate relief in the form of trained emergency rescue teams, and promises of aid from the U.S. government, private philanthropic organizations, and individuals were received. Armenian communities around the globe mobilized to provide medical assistance, gathered and shipped clothing, food, and other relief supplies, and planned for long-term reconstruction projects.

For the first time in history, the USSR acknowledged and welcomed foreign disaster assistance. George Bush sent one of his sons as a personal emissary. So it was that Armenia's suffering opened an era of unprecedented peaceful cooperation that has since transformed the world. The gratitude of the Armenians for the warm international response has been effusive. When an earthquake struck the San Francisco bay area a year later, Armenia, despite unhealed wounds of its own, offered to reciprocate.

Medical and psychiatric rehabilitation of maimed earthquake survivors is a continuing concern. Hospitals across the USA have opened their doors to injured Armenian children, making it possible for these victims to receive surgical and orthopedic treatment and rehabilitation unavailable at home.

Armenia was promised reconstruction within two years, but practical and political problems intervened to delay the work. For several months, an Azerbaijaniu rail blockade prevented overland shipments of medicine, food, fuel, and relief material from reaching Armenia. Pre-fab houses destined for the stricken area were vandalized by Azeri militants, who stole the interior fixtures and scrawled anti-Armenian obscenities on the walls.

The sheer number of collapsed buildings made rapid cleanup nearly impossible. A year and a half afterward, I visited the city of Spitak near the quake's epicenter, where I photographed collapsed buildings which still had not been cleared away. Many people were still living in tin shanties since newly-erected homes lacked basic amenities. On the other hand, the Norwegian-built Fridjof Nansen Hospital was already in use.

The earthquake remains a symbol of Armenia's considerable economic and social problems. It highlighted substandard building practices common throughout the USSR, and underlined the need for advanced western technological assistance. Armenia is anxious to establish ties with western nations to help modernize the republic's industry, provide employment, and improve living standards. Economic revitalization is essential if the country is to enjoy a secure and prosperous future.

In 1989, the USSR Ministry of Finance and the USSR State Bank released 3.0 million (2.7 million uncirculated and 300,000 in proof finish) 3 ruble cupro-nickel coins marking the first anniversary of the earthquake in Armenia.[3] The coins were struck at the

[3] See Valery Khorshev, "Commemorative Coin Marks Armenian Earthquake," Armenian Numismatic Journal, Vol. 16 (1990), pp.28-30, and two reports in *World Coin News*, as follows: "Two New Russian Commemoratives Out," Vol. 17, No. 4 (February 19, 1990) p. 1, and Fred Borgmann "World Coin Roundup: 90-13," Vol. 17, No. 8 (April 16, 1990), p. 47.

Leningrad mint, measure 33 millimeters in diameter, and have a nominal weight of 14.45 grams.[4] Two proof examples in the author's collection weigh 13.86 and 14.41 grams. While visiting Yerevan on a scientific mission in November 1991, I was presented with an uncirculated example (14.79 grams) as a gift from my hosts, Dr. Emil A Babayan and his family. The edge is inscribed twice in Russian with an incuse legend giving the denomination. This coin has been assigned catalog number Y-234 by *World Coin News.*

1989 Armenian Earthquake Commemorative

The obverse shows the USSR coat of arms and inscription CCCP, the denomination (3 rubles) in Russian, and the date of issue (1989). The arms are decorated with 15 ribbons for the 15 republics, one of which represents Armenia.

The reverse is dedicated to the earthquake. A Russian inscription at the upper rim reads "Zone OF EARTHQUAKE–[zone of] CHARITY–[zone of] CREATION" followed by the word "ARMENIA" in Russian. A monument to the victims takes the form of five hands, symbolizing aid from five continents, holding aloft a cup with a flame (the "eternal flame of memory"). Ruins of buildings and a bell occupy the foreground, and the background show the twin peaks of Mt. Ararat (16,950 and 12,875 feet), an enduring symbol of the Armenian people. The majestic peaks of Mt. Ararat may be clearly seen from Yerevan, Armenia's capital. The flanks of the mountain take the form of stylized eagle wings. Beneath is the date 7.12.1988, the date of the earthquake.

5 Ruble 1990 Matanadaran Commemorative

If the earthquake coin symbolizes the present and future of Armenia, the 1990 Matenadaran coin captures Armenia's history and rich cultural heritage in metallic form.

The term "Matenadaran" literally means repository of books. On the slope of a hill in Yerevan is a large stone library with attractive archways that houses one of the world's finest collections of ancient illuminated manuscripts. Since its establishment in 1959, the Mesrob Mashtots Manuscript Repository and Institute (Matenadaran for short) has provided visitors and scholars with an authentic view of early Armenian literature and learning.

There are approximately 26,000 complete manuscripts written in the Armenian language scattered throughout the world, most of which are held by important museums and libraries. Over 11,000 of these are kept at the Matenadaran in Yerevan, making it the largest collection of its kind in the world.

Collectors will be interested to learn that, unlike coins, only a very few illuminated manuscripts exist in private collections. Besides the Matenadaran, major collections are found at the libraries of the Armenian Mekhitarist congregations of Venice (about 4,000) and Vienna (about 1,000), and the Armenian Monastery of St. James in Jerusalem (nearly 5,000). Smaller holdings exist at the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, the British Library in London, the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, the Freer Gallery in Washington, the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, and numerous other institutions.

[4] Khorshev gives the nominal weight as 14.7 grams and implies that a total of 3.3 million were struck.

The unifying characteristic of Armenian manuscripts is that they are all written in the Armenian alphabet, a unique design creation of the Armenian monk Mesrob Mashtots, after whom the Matanadaran was named. Working around 400 AD, Mashtots and his superiors saw the need for an alphabet suited to the phonetic peculiarities of the Armenian language, which until then had been transmitted orally.

It is recorded that Mesrob saw the letters in a half-dream and had them put to parchment by a skilled calligrapher. Subsequently, he and a small group of scholars under his direction set to work translating the Bible into Armenian. They also prepared religious and secular texts, and taught the new alphabet.

Although the present Matenadaran building was erected less that forty years ago, scholars trace the archives origins to the 5th century, when a collection of manuscripts was formed at the seat of the Armenian Church located at Etchmiadzin. The collection was originally under the protection of the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church.

Manuscripts and their miniature paintings possess an almost mystical quality and have always been guarded by the people with zealous care. Nevertheless, despite the best efforts, countless numbers have been lost over the previous 16 centuries. Collections formed at various monasteries across the land were frequently pillaged and destroyed by enemy invaders.

In the 19th century, special efforts were taken to protect and enlarge the collection of the Etchmiadzin See. In 1828, the collection numbered only 1,809 volumes, many of which were in disrepair. By 1914, when the collection was packed in strong boxes and shipped to Moscow for safekeeping during the anticipated war, the collection had grown to 4,660 volumes, plus a considerable ecclesiastical archive.

During the Soviet era, the collection was enlarged, especially with works rescued from the 1915 holocaust in western Armenia, and for the first time proper facilities were provided for the study and safekeeping of these treasures. The Matenadaran was erected in 1957 and became fully operational two years later when the research institute was staffed with experts in literature, linguistics, bookbinding and restoration, and art history. Over the years, several books and catalogs of the collection have been published by institute scholars.

It is worth noting that the Matenadaran has given Armenia its first political leader of the post-Communist era. Prior to becoming active in political life, President Levon Ter-Petrosian worked for several years at the Matenadaran as a senior specialist in medieval Armenian literature. On November 11, 1991, I watched on Yerevan TV as Ter-Petrosian took the oath of inauguration as president by placing his hand on a 1300 year-old Bible which had been ceremoniously carried from the Matenadaran to the Parliament building for the occasion.

A census taken in January 1980 revealed that the Matenadaran contains, in addition to the over 11,000 complete Armenian manuscript volumes noted above, an additional 2,000 or more manuscript fragments, and almost 400 talismans and scrolls. There are also nearly 2,500 manuscripts in other languages, including Latin, Greek, Russian, Ethiopian, Hebrew, Syriac, Georgian, Persian, and Arabic. Well over 100,000 ecclesiastical and political documents are retained in a separate collection.[5] The Matenadaran is thus an important archive for the history and culture of the Middle East.

Most of the manuscripts are religious in nature (copies of the Four Gospels, the Bible, and liturgical tests). Others represent important and, in several instances, unique works of science, literature, medieval poetry, history, music, medicine, law, and other fields. Many of the manuscript provide important historical data, since scribes and later owners

[5] Information about the collection is available from several sources, notably a handbook written by the Deputy Director Babken L. Chookaszian, *The Mashtots Matenadaran: A Guidebook* (Yerevan, 1980). An earlier guidebook was prepared by G. W. Abgarian, *The Matenadaran* (Yerevan, 1962). Also see John A.C. Greppin, "Archive for an Ancient Will," which appeared in the *London Times Literary Supplement* (September 9-15, 1988), pp. 988,990.

often added colophons, or short chronicles, to their work, describing the circumstances under which they were created.

In September 1987, I had a rare and cherished opportunity to visit the Matenadaran. Unlike most tourists and even some research scholars, my parents and I were honored to be admitted inside the manuscript vault, where we were given an expert tour by Yiuri Vartanian, one of the museum's dedicated specialists. I also viewed the new climate-controlled storage and research facility then under construction.

The 5 ruble Matenadaran coin was released in cupro-nickel alloy in late 1990. A total of 3 million (2.6 million uncirculated and 400,000 in proof finish) were struck at the Leningrad mint.[6] The coin measures 35 mm in diameter and has a nominal weight of 19.43 grams. Two proof examples in the author's collection weigh 19.78 and 19.57 grams; an uncirculated example presented to me as a gift by the Babayan family weighs 18.42 grams. An incuse edge inscription repeats the denomination twice in Russian. This coin has been assigned catalog number Y-259 by the editors of *World Coin News.*

1990 MatenadaranManuscript Library Commemorative

The obverse shows the USSR coat of arms with CCCP inscription, the denomination (5 rubles) in Russian, and the date of issue (1990). One of the 15 ribbons of the arms symbolizes Armenia.

The reverse shows the front facade of the Mashtots Manuscript Repository-Matenadaran with a lighted candle to left and a scroll showing the letters of the Armenian alphabet in the foreground. In the lower right corner is the date the institute was founded (1959) and an eagle with a sword held erect and a shield. The latter is taken from a bas-relief sculpture near the entrance to the building.

The reverse inscriptions are noteworthy. They spell out the words MATENADARAN and EREVAN in Russian (Cyrillic) letters, but several of the letters are intentionally designed to be exact copies or close imitations of letters of the Armenian alphabet. In the word Matenadaran, the seventh and ninth letters are actually Armenian letters for different sounds, and the first, fifth, and eleventh letters are ligatures or letter combinations similar to those which may be found on medieval Armenian coins. In the word Erevan, all but the first and third letters resemble letters of the Armenian alphabet.

5 Ruble 1991 David of Sassoun Commemorative

The story of the Armenian mythic hero David of Sassoun comes to us directly from the Middle Ages, when the Armenian people were struggling to maintain their independence from foreign domination.

During the period of the Arab conquest (7th to 9th centuries AD) the Armenian highlands were invaded from the south by conquerors seeking to spread the faith of Islam. The Armenians, particularly in the district east of Lake Van known as Sassoun, rallied around the leading nobles against this intrusion, and many acts of heroism and sacrifice were recorded. From these episodes, a national epic was born.

[6] Information on the coin was drawn from a report in *World Coin News* by Fred Borgmann, "World Coin Roundup: 91-10," Vol. 18, No. 8 (April 15, 1991), p. 34.

For more than 1000 years, this lengthy poetic epic (often called David of Sassoun after its most famous character) was recited orally and with musical accompaniment. Similar to the national epics of other peoples, it was handed down as an oral poem from generation to generation. The poem tells of David's enormous strength, and details his struggle against Msra Melik (the caliph of Egypt), whom he challenged and defeated in a duel.

From the Middle Ages to early 20th century, bards skilled in recitation would travel from village to village. During the winter when long darkness, severe cold, and heavy snows limited transportation and outdoor activity, the bards would regale the villagers with the heroic exploits of David against the invaders. These tales not only provided an important form of entertainment for young and old, but also imparted and perpetuated traditions and moral values among the people.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, several variants of this epic were discovered and for the first time committed to paper. Extensive collections of the Armenian epic have since been published and scientifically examined, and English language translations are available.[7]

In 1959, the renowned sculptor Yervant Kochar was commissioned to create an equestrian statue of David of Sassoun, whose heroic exploits inspired generations of young Armenians before the age of TV. The bronze statue presently stands in the main plaza of the Yerevan Railway Station atop a massive basalt rock platform, and is an important tourist attraction. The warrior-like figure of David reaching for his saber astride his faithful steed Jalali, embodies the freedom-loving spirit of the Armenian people.

The 5 ruble cupro-nickel David of Sassoun coin was struck at the Leningrad mint in 1991. Mintage figures are not available but are probably the same as those for the Matenadaran issue. Coin diameter, weight, and composition are the same as for the Matenadaran commemorative. Dr. Babayan kindly presented me with two uncirculated examples as gifts in May 1992 (weights 19.65 and 20.41 grams). An incuse edge inscription gives the denomination twice in Russian. The coin has been assigned catalog number Y-273 by the editors of *World Coin News*.

The obverse is the same as that of the Matenadaran issue except that the date of issue is 1991.

The reverse shows the statue of a horse and rider to left, perched on a rock pedestal. The horse is reared on his hind legs and the rider is reaching for his saber. A Russian inscription reads clockwise along the top DAVID OF SASSOUN MONUMENT, and in exergue YEREVAN. The date 1959 at the left foot of the statue refers to the date that the monument was erected. It might be added that, in the Armenian language, the epic and the hero are called "Sassountsi David," but never correctly as "David Sasunsky" which is sometimes seen.

1991 David of Sassoun Monument (Yeravan)

[7] See translations by Zaven Nalbandian in the *Armenian Review*, "The Prologue of 'David of Sassoun'," Vol. 24, No. 94 (1971), and 'The Epilogue of 'David of Sassoun'," Vol. 25, No. 98 (1972). Also, Artin K. Shalian, *David of Sassoun* (Athens, Ohio, 1964). Other editions are available.

A Hopeful Future

These coins are historically significant in that they are the only USSR coins issued with an Armenian theme. Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation in late 1991 finally brought the Soviet era to an end, and the new republics, including Armenia, are actively planning their own currencies.[8] Future coins of Russia will preferentially reflect Russian themes.

It is hard to foretell what the future may have in store for Armenia and her people, but recent events give ground for optimism. Armenia has taken her rightful seat as a free and fully sovereign member state of the United Nations, while retaining economic and strategic ties to democratic Russia and other former Soviet republics. Despite its precarious circumstances, Armenia must be counted as an island of democratic optimism in a sea of fractious instability.

A long tradition of devotion to freedom gives reason to believe that Armenia's nascent democracy will successfully establish itself and plant firm roots in the land. Hopefully, Armenia will soon issue its own coinage and paper currency, replacing those of the now discredited Communist rulers whose excesses caused such suffering for the past seventy years.[9]

[8] See Fred Borgmann, "World Coin Roundup: 91-38," in *World Coin News*, Vol. 18, No. 23 (November 11,1991), p. 39.

[9] L. A. Saryan, "Armenia Acts to Establish Own Currency," *World Coin News*, Vol. 19, No. 10 (May 11, 1992), pp. 1, 54.

Leon A. Saryan has collected coins for more than 30 years. His articles have appeared in the *Numismatist, World Coin News*, *Bank Note Reporter*, and several other publications. His study of Chicago Armenian medals appeared in the Winter 1991-1992 issue of the *Centinel*. He visited Armenia in 1987, 1990, and 1991.

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Italy Wins Top Award for '91 Coin of the Year

IOLA, WIS.—Italy was declared the winner of the 1991 Coin of The Year award by World Coin News publisher Albert "Bo" Smith for its Ponte Milvio (Milvian Bridge) 500-lire silver coin. World Coin News is the bi-weekly newspaper for world coin collectors.

The coin, which was produced to commemorate the 2,100th anniversary of construction of the famous bridge, was the overwhelming favorite of members of the international panel of judges making the selection.

Judges made their choice from a field of eight category winners determined in the first of two rounds of COTY balloting.

The Milvian Bridge is famous in Western history as the site of the famous military battle won by Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. Following a vision that prompted his conversion to Christianity, Constantine defeated rival Maxentius.

An awards presentation to honor the Ponte Milvio coin will occur at a site and time deemed most appropriate for the winner. Last year, the 1990 award winner, the Isle of Man, was recognized at the 17th annual Mint Directors Conference that was held in June in Madrid, Spain.

The COTY award was created 10 years age by World Coin News. It recognizes excellence in world mint and central bank output and fosters innovation and creativity. It is the numismatic equivalent of Hollywood's Oscar or television's Emmy.

To contend for the top honor, coins first had to be named a category winner in the initial round of voting. The Italian coin was acclaimed the Most Artistic Coin then. Here are the winners in seven other categories:

France's silver 100 francs, Y-157, that featured Olympic ski jumpers, was named Best Crown.

Japan's 100,000 yen, Y-105, commemorating the enthronement of Emperor Akihito, was named Best Gold Coin.

Best Trade Coin was a 200 escudos issued by Portugal. It portrays Garcia De Orta, KM-655, and it is made of an aluminum-bronze ring with a copper-nickel center.

Australia's $5 silver Kookaburra, KM-138, won in the Most Popular Coin category. The Most Historically significant Coin was a silver 3 rubles for the former Soviet Union that celebrated the first manned space flight of Yuri Gagarin, Y-262.

Albanian coins topped the Best Silver Coin and Most Innovative Coinage Concept categories. A silver 10-leke, Olympic horse and rider jumping right, KM-68, won for Best Silver Coin. In the latter category it was paired with another horse and rider design jumping left, KM-69, that had a convex reverse design that fit into KM-68's concave design.

The Coin of The Year competition has been held each year since it was introduced for issues dated 1982. The two-round judging process is done by an international panel of mint, treasury and central bank officials, leaders of major numismatic organizations, museum curators, engravers, writers, marketers, and individual experts.

Coins are always judged one year after issuance so that nations which do not cut off dated mintages each December 31 may be considered. Also, some nations use other than calender year systems for coinage dating. This explains the seeming two-year delay in recognizing winners.

Up to 10 nominations in each of the eight categories are compiled initially be an in-house panel at Krause Publications of Iola, Wis., U.S.A., parent firm of World Coin News and publisher of the Standard Catalog of World Coins. Anybody may submit a nomination.

Nominations are put on a first-round ballot. The international panel then votes for category winners. The second ballot then takes those winners and the judges vote one of these to be the Coin of The Year.

Previous COTY winners were: the United States, 1982 George Washington silver half dollar; United States, 1983 Olympic silver dollar; Canada, 1984 Jacques Cartier gold $100; Finland, 1985 Kalevala silver 50 markkaa; United States, 1986 Statue of Liberty gold $5; United Kingdom, 1987 gold Britannia (100 pounds); Albania, 1988 Railroad Tunnel silver 50 leke; France, 1989 Eiffel Tower copper-nickel 5 francs; and the Isle of Man, 1990 Penny Black copper-nickel crown.

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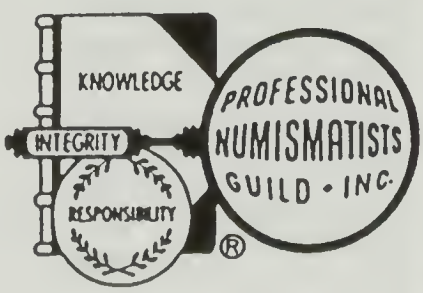

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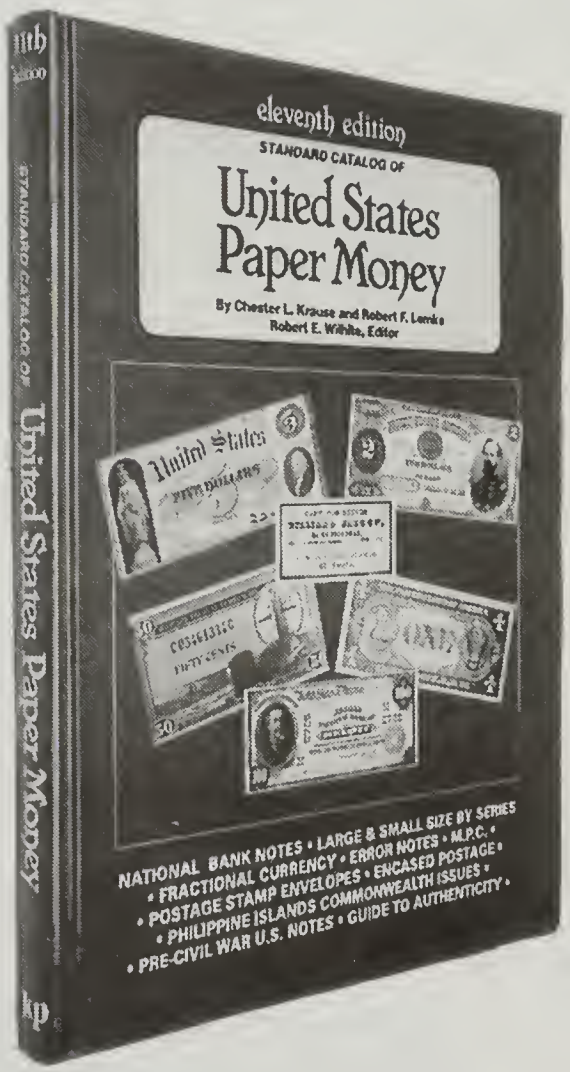
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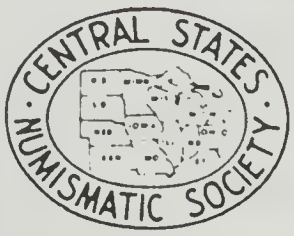

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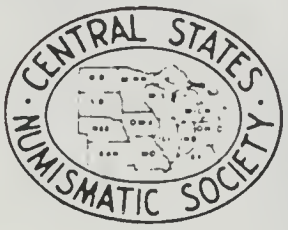

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The Stone Money Of Yap

Robert D. Leonard, Jr.

In the whole field of Odd and Curious money, there is nothing more odd or curious than the stone money of Yap. Virtually every book on the story of money includes it, and Yap is famous for nothing else. These are the facts about this fascinating currency.

Although Yap is generally describe as Yap Island, and appears to be a single island from the air, it is actually a group of four main islands—Yap, Map, Rumung, and Gagil–Tomil—plus several smaller ones, all enclosed within a coral reef. (Gagil-Tomil was part of Yap Island until separated from it by a canal dug by the Germans prior to 1914.) The whole group is 16 miles long and 6 miles across. Part of the Caroline Islands, it is located at 9° 30' N latitude and 138° 10' E longitude, north of West New Guinea (West Iran) and east of the Philippines, at about the same latitude as Saigon. Yap/Gagil–Tomil is by far the largest of the four islands.

Of ancient Malay ancestry, the people of Yap represent a melting pot of various racial strains. Among the varieties noted by anthropologists are Melanesian, Balinese, East Indian, and even some who appear to be descended from the Negritos, or pygmies, of the Philippines. Their distinct linguistic characteristics also distinguish them from other peoples of the Caroline Islands. Isolated, they have been slow to adopt Western apparel: as late as the 1970's many Yapese preferred to wear the traditional loincloth or grass skirt—and nothing else.

Travelers from Southeast Asia settled Yap some time after 3000 B.C. The earliest artifacts found on Yap have been dated to 176 A.D. (± 250 years). Probably Yap has been continuously occupied ever since. For centuries, islands for hundreds of miles to the east, north, and probably west of Yap were subject to the chief of Gacapar, king of Yap, and brought tribute to him annually in great fleets. The Yapese power was due in part to feats of black magic; in the early 19th century, they terrorized their neighbors with threats of violent storms!

Yap's decline began with its discovery by Europeans in the 16th century. In the first half of the 19th century these contacts increased, accelerating in the 1860's and 1870's. A German company established a trading station on Yap in 1869, and others followed. This threatened the Old Spanish claim to the Caroline Islands, and on August 26, 1885, Yap was simultaneously claimed by both Spain and Germany. The dispute was referred to Pope Leo XIII for arbitration; he awarded Yap to Spain. In 1899, however, after its defeat in the Spanish-American War, Spain sold the Caroline and Mariana Islands to Germany. Japan took advantage of Germany's preoccupation with World War I in 1914 to seize Yap and the rest of German Micronesia, and its occupation was confirmed by a League of Nations mandate in 1920. In World War II the United States took Micronesia, and the area was mandated to the United States by the United Nations in 1947. Yap become a District under the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In 1980, Yap District joined with the Districts of Truk, Ponape, and Kosrae to form the Federated States of Micronesia under the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and this is its status today.

During all this contact and contention Yap's population fell precipitously. Anthropologist David Schneider estimated in 1956 that pre-contact Yap had a population of from 28,000 to 34,000, based on a count of surviving house foundations. By the first census, in 1899, the population had been reduced to 7,808. The census of 1911 listed 6,187; of 1925, 4,401; of 1946, 2,582. This shocking collapse was mainly caused by devastating new diseases. By 1962, after 17 years of American rule, population had recovered somewhat to 3,530, but even so, half the deaths were due to tuberculosis, and infant mortality was 11%. Population is continuing to grow, but modern society has brought a new evil—drunkenness.

The origin of the stone money is lost in antiquity. Yapese legend credits its invention to Anagumang, a wise old man, who—having been tutored by the fairy mother Le-gerem— set sail with seven men to the small island of Magearagar in southern Palau, where they discovered a new shining stone. After trying various designs, they worked a stone into the shape of the full moon. They then bored a hole through the middle to produce a wheel-like form, which satisfied Anagumang and his patron, Le-gerem.

German anthropologist Wilhelm Müller, who studied in Yap between 1908 and 1910, asked the names of all the chiefs of Talaneie since the stone money custom was initiated. He was told that the discovery was made under Givai, and that the then living chief, Rev, was seventh in line from Givai. From this list of seven generations, Müller estimated that the stone money originated approximately 200 years previously, or circa 1709. (However, Cora Lee C. Gillilland cast doubt on this reconstruction because of the suspicious presence of the number seven, the "perfect" number in Yapese tradition: there are seven Yapese divinities, seven men on the journey of discovery, seven chiefs, etc.)

A date early in the 18th century cannot be far wrong, though. In excavations on Yap, an unperforated disk of white stone was found at a site that was carbon 14 dated to 1636 A.D. (± 200 years). This piece, a possible forerunner of the stone money, is only the diameter of a double eagle—though somewhat thicker. It is not made of the same stone as the later stone money. A much larger disk (over 4-3/8 inches in diameter) of a stone similar to that used for the money stones was carbon dated to 1756 (± 200 years), and may be the earliest datable specimen, though, being small, it is without a hole. A letter written by Father Juan Antonio Cantova on March 20, 1722, from Guam, mentions being told by Cayal, a native, that his island had mines of "silver" which, after they dig a piece out, "they try to round it off" to present it to the lord of the island for his throne; though badly garbled, this may be the earliest reference to the money disks. Otto von Kotzebue, writing of his voyage to the South Seas in 1815-1818, mentioned that "Eap" produced "whet-stones," which, however, he said were used exclusively for thrones for chiefs.

The earliest clear-cut reference to the stone money is found in the journal of Captain Andrew Cheyne, August 23, 1843. Cheyne, captain of the brig Naiad, recorded, "At 9 a.m., the premier and chiefs of Tomal [Tomal, Yap] came on board to receive their present, sent by Abba Thule [one of the chiefs of Palau], for their king, which consisted of nothing more or less than a round stone, with a hole in the center, similar to a small upper millstone [approximately two feet in diameter]. These stones are very rare, and consequently highly prized, being only found in the mountains of the Pallou [Palau] Islands." The head of the Palauan delegation made a little speech in which he referred to the stone as a "present of money," and the same phrase was used by the Yap delegation in accepting the stone. This matter-of-fact offering and acceptance of a "small millstone" as a desirable piece of money indicates that the use of stone money was long established by 1843.

As mentioned by Captain Cheyne, the stone for the money was quarried on Palau, approximately 250 miles from Yap. It is usually described as aragonite, a form of calcium carbonite which has a glassy luster and is generally colorless, white, or yellowish. That most difficult to work was most in demand: streaked stone of a brownish chocolate color and milky white stone with small crystals. Other specimens are dull, creamy white or solid dark brown.

The money stones are more or less round, and their central holes make them resemble stone cartwheels. A few specimens are oval and the very largest ones often have one or more flat sides. Their diameter varies from 30 mm (half dollar size) to about 10 feet, with some reports giving sizes of 11 feet 6 inches and 12 feet (one popular catalog gives the preposterous size of over 24 feet!), though the largest specimen outside Yap measures only 7-1/2 feet in diameter. The surface texture and shaping of the stone varies; some are extremely rough and porous, while others are polished to a very smooth, almost

enamel-like surface. On a visit to Yap in May 1987, John E. Lenker and Kay Edgerton Lenker identified three types of shaping: Type 1–thick central hub, tapering continuously toward the edge; Type 2–thick central hub, tapering toward the edge in two or three distinct circular steps (flat parallel planes); and Type 3–same thickness throughout. The Smithsonian Institution has a specimen (Gillilland no. 97) which is stepped on one side only, and another in Leiden has a depressed groove around the central hole.

The natives have two names for the stone money. According to Gillilland, the people in the northeastern and northern regions of Yap used the term rai [also ray], and this is now the accepted term in Yap proper. Müller reported that rai, which he had heard used in connection with the stone money, was the word for the aragonite it was made from. In the southern and central parts of Yap it was called fei or fae which has a more colorful origin. Anthropologist David Labby, who did fieldwork on Yap 1969-1971, stated "When the Yapese first made stone money out of the white rock found in Palau, a man from the island of Ulithi was there. When he saw them stick a pole through the center of the disk, he said, fae, which is the Ulithian word for coitus. The Yapese, of course, didn't know that, but overhearing the word, adopted it for their newly created money. So they say. In Gagil municipality, where Ulithians come to give tribute, stone money is referred to as ray out of deference to the visitors."

Originally, the stone money was quarried with primitive stone tools, drifted out to sea on large bamboo rafts, and transported back to Yap by canoes, the log passing through the center being laid across two canoes. Losses were not uncommon, though in one case when an enormous rai being towed on a raft was cut adrift and sank during a violent storm, all on the expedition testified on their return to its magnificent proportions and extraordinary quality and that it was lost through no fault of its owners; consequently, the family that owned it was recognized as being wealthy, even though their money was at the bottom of the sea!

With the arrival of European traders, iron tools were used and the rai began to be shipped on their vessels, beginning with Captain Cheyne's Naiad in 1843. But it awaited the colorful Captain David Sean O'Keefe, an Irish-American, to make a business of this trade. His Chinese junk or other ship transported Yapese to Palau from 1872 to 1901, where they hewed out their money. They then pawned it to O'Keefe for transport back to Yap, redeeming it on their return with copra (dried coconut meat, a source for coconut oil). As a result, Captain O'Keefe acquired a virtual monopoly on the trade of Yap and Palau, exporting about 220 tons of copra per annum in the 1880's. Other ships also transported stone money occasionally, with the result that the size of the stones became larger and larger. Those brought by canoes and rafts were a maximum of feet in diameter. O'Keefe started the quarrying of pieces up to six feet, which was as big as he could get into his holds. The very largest pieces were transported after 1899 on German steamers.

When the Germans took formal possession of Yap at that time they found that there were no wheeled vehicles on Yap, and hence, no roads; even the footpaths were in bad shape. They ordered the Yapese to improve them, but to no effect. Fines imposed were disregarded unless collected in stone money, and it would have been most inconvenient to load this on ships and carry it to Germany. Even if this were done, there was some doubt as th whether German shopkeepers would find stone cartwheels acceptable as payment for their wares.

An unnamed genius hit on the solution: taking advantage of the fact that the Yapese transferred title to their money without actually moving it, he sent a man around to mark some of the most valuable stones "B.A." [Berzirks-Amt or District Office] in black paint to show the Government claim. The impoverished natives immediately fell to work, and the paths were soon in good order. Then, amid great rejoicing, a second man went around to erase the letters, and the Yapese received their money back!

The stone money continued to be made well into the 20th century. One of the last stones quarried in Palau was made in 1931 and transported in 1932—only to be destroyed ten years later by the Japanese by being used for airport construction. There has been no revival of production under the U.S. administration, but the price has been fixed (by the foot or the inch!), export has been restricted (a desirable feature, since many pieces are communally owned), and finally (in 1965) taxed. Export is now said to be totally forbidden.

Contrary to some accounts, the stone money has never had a set value, so that anthropologist David Schneider considered that it was not really money at all. However, the question of value is subject to interpretation; out of respect, the Yapese expect to pay more when the seller is a woman or an old man, and much exchange takes place by "giving" things away—similar to the potlach system of the North Pacific Coast Indians, but without its excesses.

In recent years stone money has been used to purchase, among other things, the choreography for dances and singing festivals. It was also used as part of the marriage ceremony exchange, according to David Labby. The woman's side gave stone money, "a woman's valuable," and women's products such as food from the gardens, while the man's side gave shell money, "a man's valuable," and that which men are responsible for—fish, coconuts, and bananas. Dr. Labby stated that stone money is a woman's valuable because of its sexual connotation and the fact that it stays at the estate, like a woman. Yap land claim tradition required that the stone money should come mainly from her father's sister, except for one piece from her father. In modern Yap, stone money is often used as collateral for loans in U.S. currency to buy pickup trucks, boats, etc.

A 1929 Japanese census showed 13,281 pieces of stone money, and very few were made later. Counting 53 specimens in museums that were exported in 1929 or before, the total production must have been approximately 13,350. In 1963 Inez De Beaclailr estimated that this number had been reduced by half, chiefly during World War II when many were used by the Japanese for construction of defenses, for anchors, or simply broken. Others have been lost through typhoons and the advancing jungle. A number of pieces have been exported after 1963 also.

Cora Lee C. Gillilland's corpus of 1975 listed 151 pieces (counting three strung together as three pieces), 41 of which were in private hands (includes the Grover Criswell specimen, no. 95, and the missing Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum piece, no 87a, which was apparently exchanged with a private collector).

Consequently, only a handful of collectors can aspire to own an original piece of Yap stone money. But reading about them is almost as much fun as owning one!

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Michigan Banks, Bankers and Banknotes – An Introduction –

Robert D. Hatfield

Michigan has had every conceivable variant of bank, including those considered "illegal." The state has had chartered banks, "free-banking era" banks, private banks, savings banks, postal banks, national banks, savings and loan organizations, commercial banks, Federal Reserve Member banks, FDIC-covered banks, agriculture banks, good and bad banks, legal and illegal banks, and so forth and so on.

Bankers in Michigan have included the notable and the notorious, the honest and the scoundrel, the great and the not-so-great, and every hue or shade between any two extremes of description.

The banknotes have included what we now call "obsoletes," "shinplasters," "red-dogs," and "scrip." Michigan has had private-issue notes and scrip, Federal Reserve and Federal Reserve Bank notes, gold certificates, fractional currency and postage notes, silver certificates, National Bank notes, coin notes, Treasury notes (plus bonds and bills used as notes), and many other types of paper currency. Some of those notes have been well received, while others have been used to plug holes in walls. Some notes, having beautiful and colorful designs with statements of enormous capitalization, have been totally worthless. Other notes with drab designs, little color, and no notations as to resources, received applauds one day and heavy discounts the next week.

But each and every variant of bank, banker, or banknote had significance in Michigan's history. Here then are but a few instances in that history:

Even before William Hull was to be sworn in as the first Territorial Governor in 1805, he was in Boston trying to convince financiers of the need for a bank in Michigan. They did agree to establish the Bank of Detroit, and Hull came to Detroit with a load of British guineas as the first deposit. One of the territorial judges (there were three), Augustus B. Woodward, was made a proprietor in the bank, and a Bostonian named Flanagan became the cashier. They had thousands of banknotes printed, borrowed the gold for themselves, and tried to circulate the notes in the East where they were discounted or refused. Hull and Woodward had not bothered to get the approval of Congress as they should have, and Congress forced the Bank of Detroit to close in 1808 or 1809. William Hull went on to be charged, and nearly hung, for treason during the War of 1812. Augustus B.Woodward became the richest man in Michigan by selling his cheaply bought land for enormous profit. Detroit remembered him by naming its most important road after him–Woodward Avenue.

James Q. Adams came to Michigan and settled at Monroe in the early 1830s. He was probably familiar with railroads even at this early date. Adams became involved in the LaPlaisance Bay harbor idea, which would give Monroe access to lake shipping. He soon realized the need for some type of railroad from the harbor area to downtown Monroe. Adams and others, including Robert McClellan who would go on to become governor and later the Secretary of the Interior, organized the Raisin River & Lake Erie Rail Road. Tracks were proposed to go from the harbor, through Monroe and onto Blissfield. However, the RR&LE only laid about 2-1/2 miles of track, and never had a locomotive; horses, often with human help, pushed and pulled the "train" into Monroe, with several derailments along the way. Adams decided that since railroads such as the Erie & Kalamazoo could issue banknotes then, by God, so could he. Adams had notes printed for the Raisin River & Lake Erie Rail Road Bank. Michigan's Attorney-General quickly ruled this "bank" could not exist, and it disappeared for awhile. Then in 1863, Adams had more notes printed for this "bank," with redemption in Rhode Island. A Civil

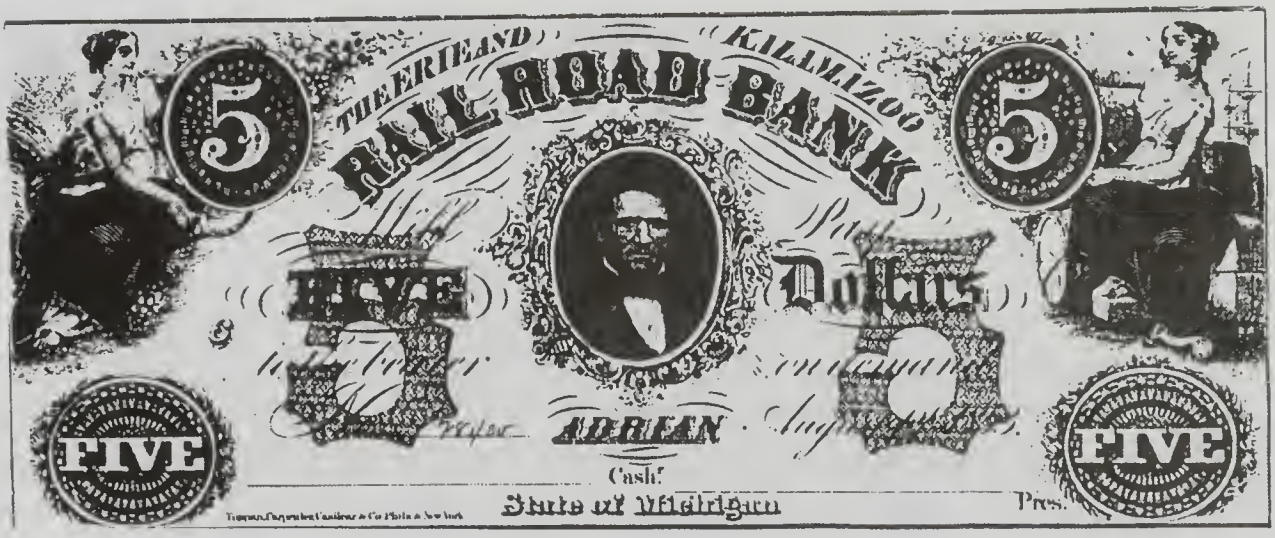
War hero, Constant Luce, was made the cashier. Its colorful notes saw use in some areas of the Confederacy. Again Michigan's Attorney-General ruled that this "bank" could not exist and it finally disappeared. The actual "railroad" had been absorbed long before 1863, and would one day become part of the Lake Shore system.

The Ives family were private bankers in Detroit. I have never seen a note or scrip of their bank, but it is possible that checks exist. The Ives were very successful bankers, but second generation Ives may have had sticky fingers. The Ives bank went from being one of Detroit's most prominent to being one of the worst. Newspaper accounts from 1900 accused the Ives of stealing $56,000, which was a fortune at the time (now it would be equal to over $500,000). The Ives bank died in 1900, but there is no evidence to show the Ives ever went to jail or paid back the money "stolen."

Some enterprising scoundrels from Monroe decided to establish their own "town." They had colorful maps drawn, began selling "prime" lots, and created a "bank." However, this scheme, which had the "imposing" Bank of Brest, was located in a forest "where the chief inhabitants were mostly mosquitoes and frogs." The town of Brest had been little more than a paper sham that made a few people rich.

This last scheme contrasts sharply with the efforts of Philo Parsons. Philo was born in New York state in 1817, and came to Detroit in 1844. At first, he was a wholesale grocer, but soon went into the private banking business. Parsons became a member of the State Board of Agriculture, and later served as its president. He was once a member of Detroit's Common Council, and a trustee of Olivet College for 36 years. Philo is given credit for helping Detroit secure Belle Isle as a city park. In either 1867 or 1868 he was one of the incorporators of the Detroit Medical College and served as its secretary. In 1871, he helped secure the Rau library with over 4,000 books for the University of Michigan. Philo was also a prime mover in bringing the Wabash Railroad connection to Detroit. Parsons helped raise funds for the First Congregational Church in Detroit, and he donated about $40,000 to Olivet College which honors him with Parsons Hall and a faculty chair. Philo Parson's private bank was the foundation for the establishment of the First National Bank of Detroit. After his widow's death in 1905, the Parson's home became the Detroit Conservatory of Music. Philo Parsons was indeed one of the finest bankers Detroit ever had.

"Obsolete" Banknotes of Michigan



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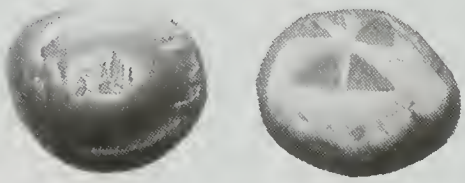

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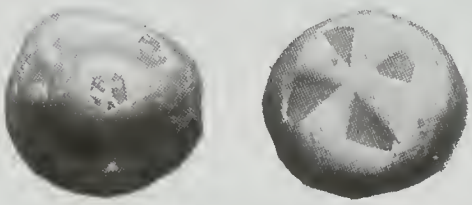

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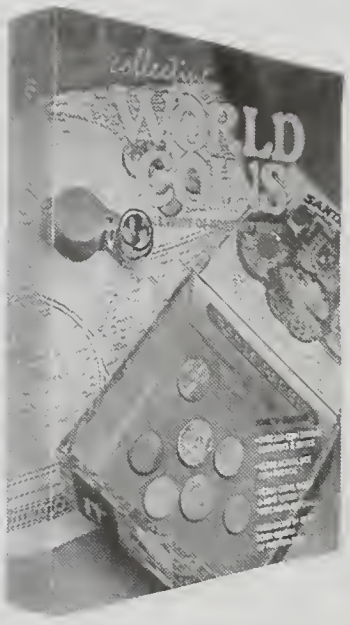

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Show Calendar

Show Chairmen are invited to send announcements of upcoming coin shows in the Central States region. The Show Calendar is intended to assist collectors and dealers in planning their show attendance. It is also designed to aid show sponsors in avoiding date conflicts. Show dates will be listed up to 24 months in advance and show sponsors are encouraged to submit dates for future shows through December, 1994. Please include the city where the show will be held, official name of the show, show dates and location, as well as the name, address and phone number of the show or bourse chairman. Send to Jim or Karen Jach, P.O. Box 21766, Milwaukee, WI 53221.

OSKALOOSA, IOWA — APRIL 17-18, 1993

Oskaloosa-Southern Iowa Coin Club Show, Penn Central Mall, 200 High Avenue West, Oskaloosa, IA. Gail McKee, P.O. Box 11, Oskaloosa, IA 52577. 515/673-4011.

SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA — APRIL 24-25, 1993

Nebraska Numismatic Association's 38th Annual Coin Show hosted by the Oregon Trail Coin Club, VFW Building, 2710 N. 10th Street (Scottsbluff Gering Road), Scottsbluff, NE 69361. Elmer G. Nelson, Box 683, Sutherland, NE 69165. 308/386-2231.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — APRIL 30-MAY 2, 1993

South Shore Coin Club's Annual Show. MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn, Milwaukee, WI. Mike Roe, 1534 St. Charles, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. 414/453-0426.

ROSEMONT (CHICAGO), ILLINOIS — MAY 20-23, 1993

Central States Numismatic Society's 54th Annual Convention, Rosemont Exposition Center, 9301 West Bryn Mawr Road, Rosemont, IL. Fred Oliver, 813 E. Bloomingdale #178, Brandon, FL 33511. 813/684-3854.

SALINA, KANSAS — JUNE 11-13, 1993

Kansas Numismatic Association 10th Annual Convention, Moose Ballroom, 1700 Beverly Drive (behind Holidome), Salina Kansas. Carl Adrian, 123 S. Santa Fe, Salina, Kansas 67401. 913/827-9766.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA — JUNE 18-20, 1993

Indiana State Numismatic Association 35th Annual Convention, Indiana Convention Center, Hall E, 100 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, IN. Larry Biblee, P.O. Box 24282, Indianapolis, IN 36224. 317/291-5008.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — JUNE 25-27, 1993

Mid America Coin Convention, MECCA Convention Center, 500 W. Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. Kevin Foley, P.O. Box 589, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA — SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1993

ATCO National Token and Medal 11th Annual Show, Holiday Inn's Ford Hall, I-80 & 72nd Street, Omaha, NE. Ralph Reeves, P.O. Box 1003 – Downtown Station, Omaha, NE 68101-1003. 402/393-4143

CINCINNATI, OHIO — SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1993

Greater Cincinnati Numismatic Exposition 10th Annual Show, Drawbridge Convention Center, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. Paul Padget, 716 W. Wyoming Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45215. 513/821-2143; Fax 513/821-3681.

LENEXA, KANSAS — SEPTEMBER 18-19, 1993

The Johnson County Numismatic Society Coin Show, Lenexa Community Center, Pflumm Road at Satna Fe Trail Drive. Joe Scarlett, 12612 W. 104 Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66215. 913/492-7973.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS — OCTOBER 3, 1993

Rockford Area Coin Club Show. Ramada Inn & Hoffman House, 7557 E. State Ts., Route Bus 20 & I-94. Ralph Winquist, 1004 C Street, Rockford, IL 61107.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — OCTOBER 8-10, 1993

Milwaukee Numismatic Society 59th Anniversary Show. MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn, Robert Rehfeld, 3236 N. 104th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53226. 414/541-8650 or 414/774-0601 or 414/541-7028.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA — OCTOBER 9-10, 1993

Omaha Coin Club 34th Annual Show, Holiday Inn, I-80 & 72nd Street, Omaha, NE. Wendell Burris, 5717 Tucker Street, Omaha, NE 68152-1841.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY — OCTOBER 22-24, 1993

Kentucky State Numismatic Association's 33rd Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Kentucky State Numismatic Association and Louisville Coin Club. Holiday Inn Downtown, 120 West Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202. Harry Tileston, P.O. Box 43744, Louisville, KY 40253-0744. 502/244-2555.

DAYTON, OHIO — NOVEMBER 5-7, 1993

Central States Numismatic Society's Fall Convention. Ron Crouch, 1921 Scotch Pine Dr., Dayton, OH 45432-1843. 513/416-1332.

Berk & Bendall Team Up

Two prominent ancient and Byzantine coinage experts, Harlan J. Berk of Chicago and Simon Bendall of London, have announced a trans-Atlantic partnership.

Bendall is now the European agent for Harlan J. Berk, Ltd., attending auction sales and providing educational assistance from London and the European continent for Berk's "Buy or Bid Sale" clients.

"We are quite excited about this association and know that it will be long and fruitful," said Berk. "It is very gratifying to be able to associate ourselves in business with this distinguished gentleman who has been a friend and colleague for some 25 years.

"This is an exciting opportunity for intercontinental co-operation," said Bendall. "I look forward to working with Harlan in every field of numismatics.

A well-known scholar, Bendall is author of several important numismatic reference books including Later Palaeologan Coinage and Catalogue of a Private Collection of Palaeologan Coins, and has written about 150 articles and reviews on ancient and Byznatine coinage.

Bendall can be reached in London at telephone number 071-233-9197.

For additional information, contact Harlan J. Berk, Ltd., 31 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602. The phone number is 312-609-0017.

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The Central States Numismatic Society welcomes articles related broadly to numismatic themes. All of the material contributed will be entered in competition for the Elston Bradfield Literary Award for the best article to appear in *The Centinel.*

Articles from contributors less than 18 years old are entered in competition for the Daniel Parker Literary Award.

Articles should contain accurate information and clear photos or drawings to help illustrate your subject.

In addition, authors are compensated at a rate of roughly five dollars per 100 words.

If you have a piece you'd like to submit for possible publication, contact the editors — Jim and Karen Jach, P.O. Box 21766, Milwaukee, WI 53221, phone 414/281-4687.

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Club News

MSNS selects officers

The Michigan State Numismatic Society has chosen new officers for 1993.

The new officers are: George Beach, president; Craig Whitford, first vice president; Pam Kocebo. second vice president; Tom Klunziger, secretary; and Bob Hartfield, treasurer.

New board members are: Russell Barr, Al Bobrosfsky, Don Charters, Lucian Chojecki, Ray Dillard, Patricia Erhardt, Denise Kitchen, Bob Matthews, Joe Mikolajczyk, Joe Overstreet, Al Patterson, and Florence Schook.

For more information, contact the MSNS, P.O. Box 16231, Lansing, MI 48901.

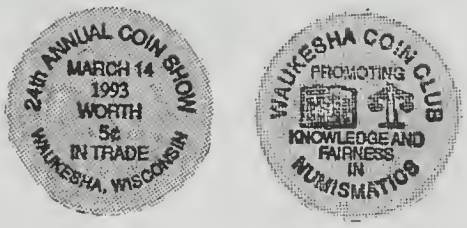
Waukesha Coin Club

The Waukesha Wisconsin Coin Club sponsored its 24th Annual Collectible and Coin Show.

A wooden token with a trade value of 5 cents was given to all attendees. Persons desiring a 1993 wooden "nickel" can obtain one by sending 50 cents and a SASE. Also available are Waukesha Coin Club "wooden nickels" from previous years. Interested persons can obtain a 1993 "wooden nickel" and 7 different "wooden nickels" from previous years for $2.00 and a large SASE.

To obtain wooden nickels write:

Waukesha Coin Club
1912 Laura Lane
Waukesha, WI 53186



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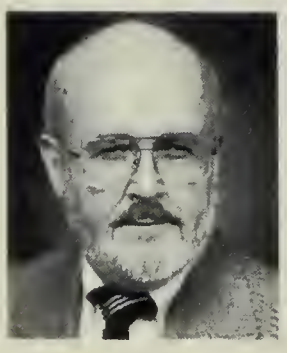

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